

of all people under one God and preached Christian and Muslim ethics along with Hindu. Gandhi also led the fight to rid the country of the caste system and defend the rights of the untouchables. Once independence was gained, Gandhi focused his energies on spreading his message of religious tolerance. His hunger strikes and prayer vigils were no longer in protest of colonial rule, but in protest of violence between Hindus and Muslims. He was on one such vigil in New Delhi when he was fatally shot by an extremist who objected to Gandhi's message of tolerance.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we all owe a great debt to Mahatma Gandhi and his teachings, and I hope that by taking this day to remember his contributions and his struggles we can again benefit from his wisdom.

HONORING BISHOP THEODORE  
BROOKS FOR OUTSTANDING  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 21, Bishop Theodore Brooks celebrated the Confirmation of his Doctrine of Ministry. As pastor of Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church, Bishop Brooks has proven an outstanding member of the New Haven Community, as he and his congregation have unfailingly worked to resolve social problems faced by residents of the Greater New Haven area. His commitment to social justice and his leadership in these communities has never wavered.

Bishop Brooks' work on behalf of numerous New Haven community organizations has earned him our respect and admiration. His efforts have contributed tremendously to the city and its residents. As Chief Executive Officer of the Beulah Land Development Corporation since 1990, Bishop Brooks successfully pursued the renovation and rehabilitation of the Orchard Street Town Homes, a project that will enhance our community with new, affordable family housing. This project would not have become a reality without the hard work and leadership of Bishop Brooks.

As a member of several Boards and Committees in various community-based organizations, Bishop Brooks has worked tirelessly to strengthen families and help residents in the community develop a more positive self-image. His work reflects his dedication to helping society's least privileged develop the cognitive skills they need to remain productive members of the community.

Among his many accolades, Bishop Brooks was recognized by the White House for his leadership in building community empowerment zones.

Bishop Brooks' work embodies the spirit and vitality of the New Haven Community he so tirelessly represents. I look forward to working with him in the future as we have in the past, to further advance social justice and promote sound economic growth.

It gives me great pleasure to join his many friends and family in thanking him for his leadership over the years. I congratulate Bishop Theodore L. Brooks on yet another great achievement—the Confirmation of his Doctrine of Ministry.

THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE  
SERVICE REFORM ACT

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Protective Service Reform Act of 1999." This legislation makes much needed reforms to the Federal Protective Service (FPS). These reforms will allow FPS to better meet the growing threat posed by terrorism to federal buildings and the people who work in and visit federal buildings. The legislation is similar to legislation I introduced in the last Congress.

On April 19, 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. That tragic and despicable act killed 168 people and wounded hundreds of others. The Oklahoma City bombing served as a sober reminder that the United States is not immune to acts of terror. The bombing also revealed that we were woefully unprepared for such an act.

I was deeply disturbed to learn that there was only one contract security guard on duty in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. That contract guard was responsible for providing security at the Murrah building and two other federal buildings in Oklahoma City. There is evidence that those responsible for bombing the Murrah building caused the building in the days and weeks leading up to the bombing. The fact that the Murrah building in the days and weeks leading up to the bombing. The fact that the Murrah building was, for the most part, unprotected, could have played a role in the decision of the terrorists to bomb that building.

In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the Public Building Service (PBS) of the General Services Administration (GSA) has made great strides in improving the physical security of the 8,300 federal buildings under its control. But, at hearings held last year by the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Economic Development revealed, the security upgrade program initiated in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing has been hindered by mismanagement and a reduction in staffing. In addition, structural and personal problems within the Federal Protective Service are also hindering GSA's ability to upgrade and improve security.

At the present time the FPS is a unit within PBS. The head of FPS reports to the PBS commissioner. The PBS commissioner does not have a law enforcement background and his main responsibility is real estate management—not law enforcement. While we do have a very able and talented PBS commissioner, I do not believe that security is best served by having FPS as a sub-entity within PBS.

While I recognize that the use of contract guards is necessary, I am concerned that the use of contract guards may not be appropriate at certain federal buildings. I am also concerned over the fact that contract guards do not undergo the same type of background checks as FPS officers. All FPS officers undergo a full and detailed background investigation, including a review by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Contract guards, on the other hand, only undergo a cursory background check. At the present time there are

only 668 uniformed FPS officers, as opposed to more than 5,000 contract guards. The best deterrent to a terrorist bombing or attack on a federal building is a highly trained, professional and fully staffed FPS.

I have great admiration for the men and women who serve so ably on the FPS. That's why I am deeply troubled that FPS officers are paid significantly less than other federal law enforcement officers that perform the same function. This is not fair. Equally as disturbing, the low level of compensation combined with poor communication between management and the rank and file is causing a morale and turnover problem that could further compromise security. Morale plays a key role in the effectiveness of any law enforcement agency. The Federal Protective Service Reform Act will make the changes needed to boost morale, improve management and make FPS better also to respond to terrorist threats to federal buildings.

Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, the goal of my legislation is to remake the FPS into an elite federal law enforcement agency with a well trained, professionally led, highly motivated and appropriately compensated cadre of officers. Another goal is to ensure that decisions to how best to ensure the security of federal buildings are based on sound law enforcement and intelligence analysis—not on budgetary considerations. The main features of the Federal Protective Service Reform Act will:

Establish, by statute, the Federal Protective Service as a freestanding service within GSA, with the responsibility of serving as the principal law enforcement and security agency in the United States with respect to the protection of federal officers and employees in buildings and areas under GSA's control (under the Public Buildings Act, the GSA Administrator has the authority to appoint special police officers and investigators, but the Act does not require GSA to establish a FPS).

Make FPS a service within GSA, separate from PBS. Under the bill, the FPS would have its own commissioner who will report directly to the GSA Administrator (currently the head of FPS has the title of Assistant Commissioner within PBS).

Clarify the responsibilities and authority of FPS officers, including giving them the ability to carry firearms to and from work, providing officers with a "buffer zone" of responsibility extending to property adjacent to a federal building, and clearly delineating the circumstances under which FPS officers can make arrests.

Establish a pay scale and benefit package for FPS officers similar to that of the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service.

Require GSA to hire at least 730 full-time FPS officers within one year of enactment of the bill into law, and bar GSA from reducing the number of full-time FPS officers unless specifically authorized by Congress (the PBS commissioner stated last year in Congressional testimony that GSA's long-term goal is to have 724 full-time FPS officers).

Require contract guards to undergo the same background checks as FPS officers, and require GSA to prescribe adequate training standards for contract guards.

Direct a General Accounting Office study of the feasibility of merging all federal building security services under FPS.

Require that the FPS Commissioner be a career civil servant with extensive law enforcement experience.